

What is claimed is:

1. A method for using information related to an identification of a portable communications device, comprising:

5 providing a first portable communications device, having a first make and a first model, with a docking assembly;

obtaining from said first portable communications device identification-related information that can be used to identify said first portable communications device; and

controlling at least one of: power to said first portable communications device; initiation of use of said first portable communications device; and utilization of air link requirements of said first portable communications device based on said identification-related information.

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2. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said first portable communications device includes a first cellular telephone and said docking assembly includes a pocket member that holds said first portable communications device and in which said first cellular telephone is one of a plurality of cellular telephones being associated with said first make and, wherein each of said plurality of cellular telephones is associated with a different model.

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3. A method, as claimed in Claim 2, wherein:

said plurality of cellular telephones includes a second cellular telephone and in which said second cellular telephone has physical characteristics including dimensions such that said second cellular telephone can be held by said first pocket member.

4. A method, as claimed in Claim 3, further including:

providing a third cellular telephone and a second pocket member for holding said third cellular telephone and in which said third cellular telephone has physical characteristics including dimensions that prevent it from being properly used with said first pocket member and in which said first and second cellular telephones have physical characteristics including dimensions that prevent it from being properly used with said second pocket member.

5. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said identification-related information includes at least a first message obtained from said first portable communications device.

6. A method, as claimed in Claim 5, wherein:

said first message includes information related to at least one of: a model type and a phone type associated with said first portable communications device.

7. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said obtaining step includes recognizing a predetermined portion of a first message obtained from said first portable communications device that includes information related to a model type associated with said first portable communications device.

8. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said identification-related information includes a message type that is indicative of a data format used by said first portable communications device.

9. A method, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said first portable communications device includes a first cellular telephone and said initiation of use includes dialing said first cellular telephone and said air link requirements include a data format associated with data that can be transferred using said first cellular telephone.

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10. A system for using information related to identification of at least a first portable communications device, comprising:

a docking assembly for communicating with said first portable communications device and including:

5 a first adaptor for holding and supporting the first portable communications device; and

a docking station for enabling communications with a number of portable communications devices including said first portable communications device;

10 wherein said docking assembly receives identification-related information for the first portable communications device that can be used to identify it and, using said identification-related information, generates control information related to at least one of the following: powering on the first portable communications device; initiating use of the first portable communications device; and utilizing a predetermined data format for the first portable communications device.

11. A system, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:

said docking assembly generates a request to obtain said identification-related information when said adaptor is holding the first portable communications device.

12. A system, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:

said control information is part of a message received by said adaptor.

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13. A system, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:

said docking assembly includes software for checking at least a first predetermined portion of a message received by said adaptor.

14. A system, as claimed in Claim 10, further including:

a first cellular telephone that is the first portable communications device, said first cellular telephone being associated with a make and a first phone type and with said first cellular telephone inputting said identification-related information to said adaptor.

15. A system, as claimed in Claim 14, further including:

a second cellular telephone having the same make of said first cellular telephone make and being associated with a second phone type and in which said second cellular telephone can be held and supported by said adaptor.

16. A system, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:

said control information includes said initiating use that is used to dial said first cellular telephone.

17. A system, as claimed in Claim 14, wherein:

said first phone type includes at least one of a first phone model and a message type and said at least one being used to ascertain said predetermined data format associated with said first cellular telephone.

18. A method for interacting with a portable communications device,  
comprising:

receiving a first portable communications device in a docking assembly;  
eliciting an identification signal from said first portable communications device;  
receiving said identification signal at said docking station;  
using said identification information to identify said first portable communications  
device; and

selecting a first set of interface characteristics for operating said first portable  
communications device, wherein said first set of said interface characteristics is capable of  
operating said first portable communications device, and wherein said first set of interface  
characteristics is incapable of operating a second portable communications device.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein said second portable communications  
device is incapable of being received by said docking assembly.

20. The method of Claim 18, further comprising:

receiving a third portable communications device in said docking assembly;  
eliciting an identification signal from said third portable communications device;  
receiving said identification signal at said docking assembly;  
using said identification information to identify said third portable communications  
device;

selecting a second set of interface characteristics for operating said third portable communications device, wherein said second set of said interface characteristics is capable of operating said third portable communications device, and wherein said second set of interface characteristics is incapable of operating said first portable communications device.

21. The method of Claim 18, wherein said docking assembly comprises an adaptor and a docking station, wherein said first portable communications device is received by a first adaptor, and wherein said first adaptor is interconnected to a first docking station.

22. The method of Claim 20, wherein said docking assembly comprises an adaptor and a docking station, wherein said first portable communications device is received by a first adaptor, wherein said first adaptor is interconnected to a first docking station, wherein said third portable communications device is received by a second adaptor, and wherein said second adaptor is interconnected to said first docking station.

23. The method of Claim 18, wherein said first set of interface characteristics comprises control commands.